

Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

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FM AMEMBASSY LONDON

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1468

C O N F I D E N T I A L LONDON 07044

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EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: OVIP (KISSINGER, HENRY A.)

SUBJECT: ALASTAIR BUCHAN MEMORIAL LECTURE

REF: STATE 109624

1. FCO HAS PROVIDED US IN CONFIDENCE WITH TENTATIVE SCHEDULE FOR PRESIDENT GISCARD'S STATE VISIT: GISCARD WILL ARRIVE IN LONDON ON TUESDAY, JUNE 22, AND THE QUEEN WILL HOST A STATE BANQUET IN HIS HONOR THAT EVENING. ON WEDNESDAY, JUNE 23, THERE WILL BE OFFICIAL TALKS ALL DAY, A LUNCHEON HOSTED BY THE PRIME MINISTER, AND AN EVENING AT THE OPERA. ON THURSDAY, JUNE 24, THERE WILL BE A GUILD HALL LUNCHEON, A PRESS CONFERENCE, AND A DINNER HOSTED BY GISCARD. ON FRIDAY MORNING, JUNE 25, GISCARD WILL FLY TO SCOTLAND, LUNCH WITH THE QUEEN, AND DEPART BRITAIN IN MID-AFTERNOON.

2. BRITISH HAVE MADE CLEAR THEY WOULD BE UNEASY OVER PROSPECT OF HAVING SECRETARY KISSINGER DELIVER MAJOR SPEECH IN LONDON WHILE PRESIDENT GISCARD HERE ON STATE VISIT. THEY ARE NOT PREPARED TO GO SO FAR AS TO REQUEST SECRETARY TO STAY AWAY DURING PERIOD OF GISCARD VISIT BUT WOULD OBVIOUSLY BE RELIEVED IF BUCHAN MEMORIAL SPEECH COULD BE RESCHEDULED FOR ANOTHER TIME. SINCE GISCARD WILL NOT LEAVE LONDON UNTIL JUNE 25, TWO ALTERNATIVE
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DATES PROPOSED REFTTEL WOULD APPEAR TO BE UNSUITABLE.

3. WE HAVE DISCUSSED ENTIRE MATTER FULLY AND FRANKLY WITH BERTRAM. HE IS UNDERSTANDABLY DISAPPOINTED THAT AGREED DATE HAS TO BE CHANGED A SECOND TIME, BUT APPRECIATES DELICACY OF SITUATION AND IS GRATEFUL SECRETARY STILL WISHES TO GIVE LECTURE. AS ALTERNATIVE DATES HE SUGGESTS EVENING OF MONDAY, JUNE 21 (IF SECRETARY CAN CUT SHORT HIS STAY IN PARIS) OR EVENING OF FRIDAY, JUNE 25, BY WHICH TIME GISCARD WILL HAVE DEPARTED BRITAIN.

4. PLEASE ADVISE.

ARMSTRONG

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